



*Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515*

*Anna G. Eshoo
Eighteenth District
California*

June 18, 2018

The Honorable Miguel Santiago, Chairman
Assembly Communications and Conveyance
Committee
State Capitol R-6027
Sacramento, California 95814

The Honorable John Obernolte,
Vice Chair
Assembly Communications and
Conveyance Committee
State Capitol R-6027
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Chairman Santiago and Vice Chair Obernolte,

I'm writing to urge you to support SB 822, State Senator Wiener's bill to restore strong net neutrality protections for the people of California. On the heels of the official lapse in national net neutrality protections last week, Senator Wiener's bill is the next best defense against anticompetitive, anticonsumer activity by incumbent Internet service providers (ISPs).

As passed by the State Senate last month, SB 822 restores the 2015 Open Internet Order protections for the people of California. It reinstates the brightline rules of no blocking, throttling, or paid prioritization. It also prohibits two practices – discriminatory zero rating and arbitrary interconnection fees - that would otherwise allow ISPs to undermine the spirit of net neutrality without necessarily violating the original brightline rules themselves.

I'm very concerned by reports that the Assembly Committee is considering altering the bill to realow zero rating and arbitrary interconnection fees. Such practices have always undermined the open Internet, but in light of recent vertical mergers such as AT&T-Time Warner, and the announcement of Comcast's bid for 21st Century Fox, it is critically important that we prohibit anticompetitive activity at the very moment that ISPs have more incentive and ability than ever to play favorites with our Internet access.

As other states around the nation are looking to pass their own net neutrality bills, California can set the 'gold standard'. The current SB 822 provides this standard for true net neutrality. I therefore urge you to reject any attempts to dilute the purpose of the bill by removing either the zero-rating or interconnection provisions, and to pass SB 822 through your Committee as is.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Anna G. Eshoo", with a large, stylized initial "A" and "E".

Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Rob Bonta
The Honorable Sabrina Cervantes
The Honorable Eduardo Garcia
The Honorable Chris R. Holden
The Honorable Sydney Kamlager-Dove
The Honorable Evan Low
The Honorable Brian Maienschein
The Honorable Devon J. Mathis
The Honorable Jim Patterson
The Honorable Sharon Quirk-Silva
The Honorable Freddie Rodriguez